

Extract from Interrogation of  
General Hidiki TOJO  
of 18 Feb. 1946

/pp. 1-2/

"Q Last week I was talking to Admiral NOMURA and asked him if he considered the final note sent by Japan to the United States a declaration of war. He said that he absolutely did not. Do you agree that it was not?

"A I think it was a final note. It was a final note breaking off diplomatic relations.

"Q You have not answered the question. Do you agree with him that it was not a declaration of war?

"A It was a note breaking off diplomatic relations but it was different from a direct declaration of war. It was a note breaking off diplomatic relations and, hence, making possible freedom of action. That point is in reference to international treaties. This is an important matter though and this next point also applies. Japan had been challenged militarily and economically by various countries, especially England and America, and her existence was threatened. She exercised the right of self-defense."

\* \* \*

/pp. 3-4/

"Q Was not everything connected with this note your responsibility and the responsibility of the Cabinet?

"A It was my responsibility and also that of the Foreign Minister.

"Q Didn't the cabinet know that the note was to be sent and approve it?

"A Yes. They knew about it and of course they approved it.

"Q What international treaties were you speaking of in connection with sending the note?

"A I am not just sure of the names now. At the time, of course I knew them, but I am not so sure now. Isn't there a Hague Treaty, or something, that applies to these matters?

"Q Did not the Hague Convention call for a declaration of war prior to an actual attack?

"A I think that if a nation is challenged, it is not restrained from exercising the right of self-defense.

"Q You still have not answered the question. I repeat: Did not the Hague Convention call for a declaration of war prior to an actual attack? This is a question that can be answered 'yes', or 'no', or 'I don't know'."

"A At that time I studied this matter carefully, but now it is five years later and I have not the treaty here and I don't remember too well about it, but I believe that we had freedom of action under international treaties.

"Q In connection with the attack on America and Great Britain did you or the members of the cabinet give any thought to the Kellogg-Briand Pact being violated by Japan?

"A Of course, we did.

"Q So that you and the members of your cabinet felt that it was necessary to disregard treaty provisions and make the attack on America and Great Britain?

"A No, we had regard for them, but we did not feel that we were bound because of the reasons I have mentioned. That applies to the Kellogg-Briand Pact, too.

"Q So that you and the members of the cabinet, because of the reasons given, felt that Japan was not bound by any treaty provisions in connection with the attack on the United States and Great Britain?

"A Yes."

\* \* \*



EX 1205-A

2503-1

一九四六年二月十八日

東條英機ニ對スル訊問ヨリノ抄萃

一 一 二 三 四 頁

問、先通私ハ野村提督ト會談シテ居リマシタ。ソ  
シテ日本カラ米國ニ送ラレタ最後通牒ハ宣戰  
布告ト考ヘタカト尋ホマシタ。彼ハ全然左様  
ニハ考ヘナカツタト云ヒマシタ。貴方ハ宣戰  
布告デナカツタト云フ彼ニ同意シマスカ。

答、私ハ最後通牒デアツタト思ヒマス。外交斷絶  
スル最後通牒デアリマシタ。

問、貴方ハ私ノ質問ニ答ヘテ居リマセシ。宣戰布  
告デナカツタ事ニ付テ彼ニ同意シマスカ。

答、ソレハ外交斷絶通告デアツタガ直接ノ宣戰布  
告トハ異ヒマシタ。外交斷絶ノ通牒デアツタ  
故ニ行動ノ自由ヲ可能ナラシムルモノデアリ  
マシタ。ソノ點ハ國際條約ニ關聯シテ居リマ  
ス。コレハ重要ナ件デアルガ又次ノ點モ亦ソ  
レニ關係ガアリマス。日本ハ諸外國等ニ英國  
ト米國トカラ軍事的經濟的ニ挑戦サレマシタ。  
ソシテ生存ヲ脅カサレマシタ。日本ハ自衛權  
ヲ發動シマシタ。

× × ×

2503-2

問、右通牒ニ應スル凡テハ貴方ノ責任デアリ又内閣ノ責任デハナカツタカ。

答、私ノ責任デアリ又外務大臣ノ責任デモアリマシタ。

問、内閣ハ右通牒ヲ發送サル可キ事ヲ知ラナカツタデスカ又ソレヲ承認シナカツタデスカ。

答、ハイ、閣僚ハ知ツテ居リマシタ、ソシテ勿論承認シマシタ。

問、通牒ヲ發送スル事ニ關シテ如何ナル國際條約ヲ貴方ハ違へテ居ラレマシタカ。

答、只今夫等ノ名稱ニ付テ禮カデアリマセン、勿論ソノ當時ハ知ツテ居リマシタ、然シ今ハ余リ確カデアリマセン。「ヘーグ」條約カ又ハ右ノ事件ニ適用スル何カデアリマセンカ。

問、「ヘーグ」條約ハ宣戰政策ヲ開始スル前ニ宣戰布告ヲ要求シマセンドシタカ。

答、若シ或ル一國が強敵サレタ時ハ自衛權ノ發動ハ自由デアルト思ヒマス。

問、貴方ハマダ質問ニ答へテ居リマセン、繰り返シテ言ヒマスガ「ヘーグ」條約ハ宣戰政策ヲ開始スル前ニ宣戰布告ヲ要求シマセンドシタカ、コレハ「サウデス」トカ「思ヒマス」トカ「知リマセン」デ答へラレル質問デス。

2503-3

答、ソノ當時私ハコノ件ニ付テ慎重ニ研究シマシ  
タ、處ガ五年後ノ今日デハ條約モ此處ニ持ッ  
テ居リマセシ又ソレニ付イテ充分記憶シテ  
居リマセン、然シ國際條約ノ下ニハ行動ノ自  
由ガアツタト思ヒマス。

問、米國並ニ英國ニ對スル攻撃ニ關シテ貴方或ハ  
閣員ハ「ケロツグ・ブリアン」條約ガ日本ニ  
依ツテ犯サレタトイフ事ヲ考ヘマセンデシタ  
カ。

答、勿論吾々ハ考ヘマシタ。

問、ソレデハ貴方ト閣員ハ條約條項ヲ無視シ米國  
並ニ英國ヲ攻撃スル必要ガアツタト思ツタノ  
デスカ。

答、イーエ、條約條項ハ考慮シマシタガ既ニ申シ  
通ベマシタ通りノ理由デ吾々ハ拘束ヲ受ケテ  
ハ居ナイト考ヘマシタ。コレハ「ケロツグ・  
ブリアン」條約ニモ適用シマス。

問、ソレデハ貴方並ニ閣員ハ右ニ通ベラレタル理  
由ニ依リ日本ハ米國及ビ英國ニ對スル攻撃ニ  
關シテ如何ナル條約條項ニモ拘束サレナカツ  
タト考ヘマシタカ。

答、サウデス。

×

×

×